

NEWS RELEASE

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Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Dennis Hoffman
Phone: 618.242.7879

Unemployment Rates up in Most Metro Areas *Job Growth Continues to Lag*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	November 2015	November 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.4%	5.0%	0.4
Carbondale-Marion	6.9%	6.3%	0.6
Champaign-Urbana	5.7%	5.3%	0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.2%	5.8%	-0.6
Danville	7.7%	7.3%	0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.8%	5.8%	0.0
Decatur	7.6%	7.4%	0.2
Elgin	6.1%	5.9%	0.2
Kankakee	7.2%	6.9%	0.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.6%	5.5%	0.1
Peoria	7.1%	6.3%	0.8
Rockford	7.5%	7.2%	0.3
Springfield	5.7%	5.5%	0.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	6.7%	6.5%	0.2
Illinois Statewide	5.8%	6.0%	-0.2

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – Unemployment rates increased in 12 metro areas, decreased in one and was unchanged in one. Eight metro areas across the state saw job loss compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Not seasonally adjusted data compares November 2015 with November 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-1.8 percent, -1,000), Quad Cities (-1.7 percent, -3,200), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.5 percent, -6,300). Illinois businesses added jobs in six metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Elgin (+2.0 percent, +5,000), Champaign-Urbana (+1.5 percent, +1,700), Danville (+1.4 percent, +400), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.3 percent or +46,900). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (nine of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14), and Education and Health Services (eight of 14).

“While the increase in unemployment rates will garner most of the headlines, more troubling is Illinois’ extremely low employment growth rate this past year,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Out of 102 counties in Illinois, 96 remain below their pre-recession 2007 peak employment levels.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.8 percent in November 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in November and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – November 2015

Metropolitan Area	November 2015*	November 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	96,400	95,500	900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,100	56,100	-1,000
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,800	110,100	1,700
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,672,800	3,625,900	46,900
Danville MSA	29,800	29,400	400
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	181,400	184,600	-3,200
Decatur MSA	51,000	51,600	-600
Elgin Metro Division	260,000	255,000	5,000
Kankakee MSA	45,900	46,100	-200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	400,200	406,500	-6,300
Peoria MSA	179,600	180,100	-500
Rockford MSA	152,300	152,600	-300
Springfield MSA	113,500	112,100	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	230,900	232,000	-1,100
Illinois Statewide	5,989,600	5,953,900	35,700

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Over-the- Year Change
Carbondale-Marion MSA	6.9%	6.3%	0.6
Jackson County	6.5%	6.0%	0.5
Williamson County	7.2%	6.6%	0.6
Other Area Counties			
Alexander County	9.0%	8.9%	0.1
Franklin County	9.2%	8.4%	0.8
Johnson County	9.2%	8.7%	0.5
Massac County	7.6%	7.3%	0.3
Perry County	7.9%	7.6%	0.3
Pulaski County	9.9%	8.9%	1.0
Randolph County	6.1%	5.9%	0.2
Union County	8.8%	7.6%	1.2
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	7.9%	7.1%	0.8
Hamilton County	5.7%	5.2%	0.5
Hardin County	8.6%	7.7%	0.9
Pope County	7.2%	6.9%	0.3
Saline County	8.5%	7.2%	1.3
White County	6.6%	5.4%	1.2
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	6.3%	5.4%	0.9
Lawrence County	7.2%	6.4%	0.8
Richland County	7.0%	6.2%	0.8
Wabash County	6.0%	5.2%	0.8
Wayne County	7.1%	6.3%	0.8

Southern Illinois Highlights

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9 percent in November 2015 in the Carbondale-Marion Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jackson and Williamson Counties). In November 2014, the jobless rate was 6.3 percent. Unemployment increased throughout Southern Illinois when compared to one year ago.

Over the year, employment gains were reported in Retail Trade and Transportation. Health Care Services continued to add workers. Payroll advances were also reported in Professional-Business Services and Wholesale Trade. Seasonal layoffs in Construction began in November 2015. Mining, Financial Services, Leisure-Hospitality, and Government payrolls declined compared to one year ago.

Numerous employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Transportation, and Sales in November 2015. Job openings were advertised in Office and Administrative Support, Management and Production occupations. Career prospects were favorable in Food Service, Business and Finance, Social Services, and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair occupations. Workers were also needed for Computer and Engineering occupations.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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